



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Nguyen *et al.*  
Serial No. : 10/677,977  
Filed : October 2, 2003  
Cust. No. : 77202  
Title : METHODS OF GENERATING AND SCREENING FOR PROTEASES  
WITH ALTERED SPECIFICITY

Art Unit : 1639  
Examiner : Teresa D. Wessendorf  
Conf. No. : 9061

**Mail Stop RCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED  
EXAMINATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment, which is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed December 11, 2008, is filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of the above-captioned application. Entry of the following amendments and consideration of the following remarks respectfully are requested. An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this preliminary amendment and RCE.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 11 of this paper.

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

  
Steven Dennis